(b) whether NDDB had obtained prior approval from Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Immunologicals Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of NDDB incorporated Indiagen Ltd. as its subsidiary in November, 2004. Also, in the Mother Dairy group of companies, in august, 2004 Mother Dairy Delhi Ltd. was amalgamated with Mother Dairy India Ltd. and Mother Dairy Foods Ltd. was amalgamated with Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt. Ltd.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Selling milk and milk products by NDDB

†2884. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board has stopped selling milk and milk products of the State Dairy Federations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether it is in the interest of the farmers; and

(c) if so, in what manner this benefit will reach the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Interest free loans and suicides

2885. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals to provide interest free loans to agriculturists for specified crop period, to help the farmers boost up growth, without being placed in situations where they are driven to commit suicides; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.